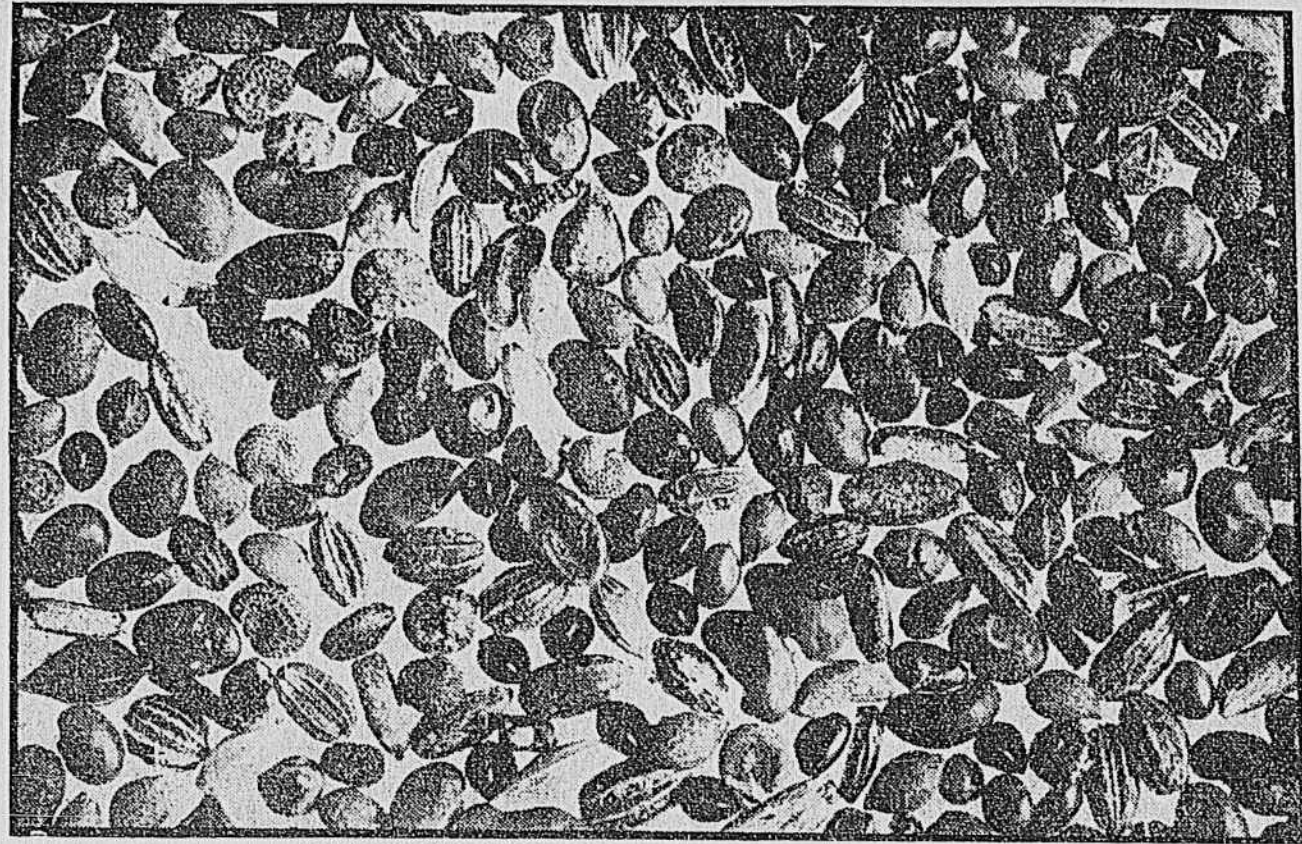


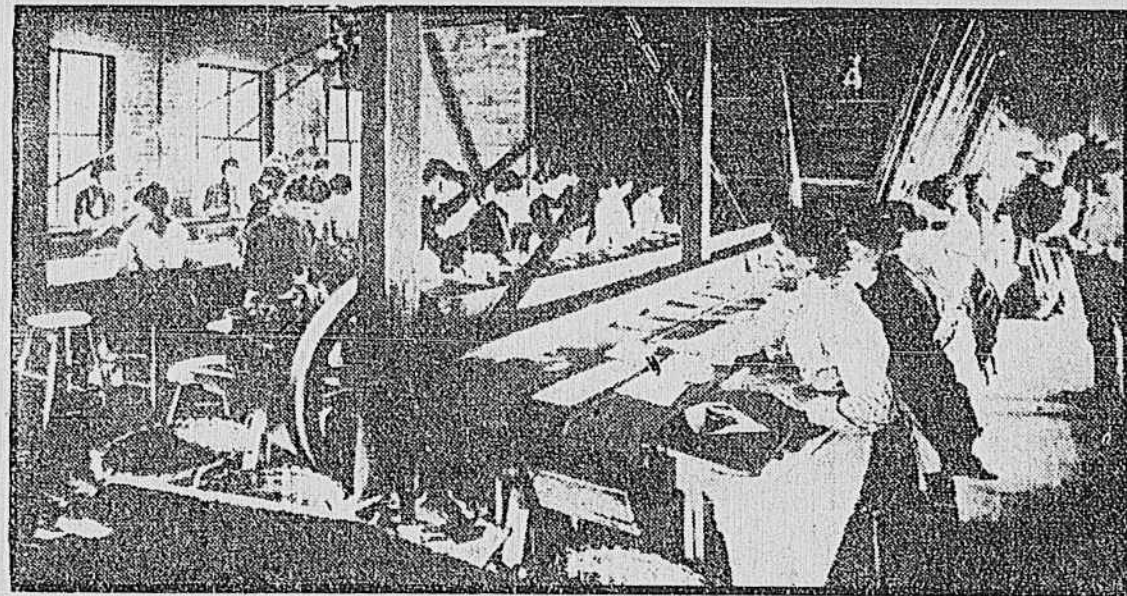
# His Prize Package---Uncle Sam Distributes It Each Spring---Now Being Mailed and Contains New Gifts



ADULTERATED SEED, GREATLY MAGNIFIED.



LABORATORY TEST, COUNTING SPIRITS.



PUTTING PACKETS INTO ENVELOPES.



FILLING THE PACKETS.

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

Washington, D. C., March. Before the last peach blossom bursts into bloom to give the final signal for spring garden planting to begin your Uncle Samuel will have distributed among his people no less than 60,000,000 packets of vegetables and flower seeds, besides 377,000 of such garden luxuries as bulbs, strawberry plants, grape vines and orange trees—a free gift to the people costing more than \$250,000 and weighing in all 1,300,000 pounds.

Whether you receive your share of this 100-ton prize package depends upon your Congressman. Are you on his list? If not, it is up to him alone, and there is not the least use of your pointing any one else about it, unless he has delegated some local organization in your district to scatter the gifts for him.

Here is what he has to give away this spring: 20,000 packages of vegetable seed and 2,000 packages of flower seed (each containing five packets); 50 packages of lawn grass seed (a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass, red top and white clover); 20 boxes of Dutch bulbs (each containing 2 hyacinths, 8 narcissuses and 10 tulips); 40 grapevines and 150 strawberry plants. Now, since the average Representative has 50,000 families in his district and since each Representative has 22,050 packages of seed, there is

not enough of the latter to give even half of the constituents one package apiece. But the distribution is not so uneven when you omit those constituents who live in the heart of town, and who have no personal use for garden seeds.

Members Don't All Get Alike.

But the Congressmen themselves are not all treated alike by Uncle Sam. Extra quotas are given to members from belts of the country to which certain products of the soil are limited. Thus each Senator and Representative from the cotton States is this spring allowed 100 pecks of the seed of new varieties of wilt-resistant or early-maturing cotton. Furthermore, each Congressman from the tier of States extending from North Carolina to the Gulf has been allotted, for this season's distribution, fifteen fruit trees of a species known as "citrange"—a cross between the Japanese trifoliate orange and our ordinary sweet orange. These will be sent by the United States Bureau of Plant Industry only to growers who have been named by each Congressman and who have agreed to report results of planting to this bureau. Southern members have, of course, profited for more than their Northern colleagues also in this year's special allotment of tobacco seed, 150 packages of which have been allowed each Senator and Representative from

the tobacco-growing sections.

Then, in addition to all of these things there have been granted to members this spring indefinite allotments of some special leguminous and other full-crop seed, which the Bureau of Plant Industry wants to try out in certain localities. These include cowpeas, soybeans, sorghum and various grasses.

In addition to all of these allotments to Representatives, the Secretary of Agriculture is allowed this spring a quota consisting of the following number of seeds of the varieties mentioned: Vegetable, 1,000,000; flower, 150,000; tobacco, 1,350; cotton, 1,000; and lawn grass, 2,000, as well as 1,000 boxes of Dutch bulbs, 11,500 grapevines and 18,300 strawberry plants. Of this, "the secretary's quota" will be used chiefly for exchanging vegetable for flower seed, or vice versa, to meet the wishes of Senators and Representatives who have more city or more country constituents than others, as the case may be. The secretary will distribute from his quota this spring also 110,000 packets among the school gardens and 10,000 packets will be sent by him to Alaska.

The Varieties Distributed.

The flower seed to be sent out this year totals 43,592 pounds and includes thirty-eight varieties, those distributed in greatest abundance being nasturtium, 11,120, and sweet peas, 14,000

pounds. The others are in much smaller quantities, ranging from five to 2,100 pounds. Practically all of these flower seeds included in the distribution can be grown in some portion of every State in the Union. Of the vegetable seed there are two dozen varieties, including all of the garden staples, besides brussels sprouts, endive, kohlrabi and okra.

Different combinations, of course, go to different States. Thus, sweet corn are not distributed in the South, where the rust kills them, while, for climatic reasons, okra and collard are not sent farther North than the upper limit of the cotton States.

The whole matter of distributing the spring prize package has been reduced to the nicest kind of a system. This was explained to me yesterday by Professor William A. Taylor, who is acting as chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in the absence abroad of Professor B. T. Galloway. In the first place, Congressmen are requested to send into this bureau during the fall their thousands of "franks"—labels which carry their packages free in the mails—each addressed to a constituent to be favored with a part of the annual gift. But inasmuch as a congressional election fell last autumn, this part of the work was greatly delayed by members.

Ingenuous Bag-Filling Machines.

In the early winter commenced the

work of "packeting" the vegetable and flower seeds in the Washington establishment of the New England contractors, who fill the 6,620,000 packages and deliver them in mail sacks at the Union Station at the rate of \$1.10 per 1,000. Each of twenty-two ingenious packing machines, with one operator, fills 25,000 of the yellow envelopes per day of eight hours. Indeed, the delicate discrimination with which these devices measure to a minute fraction of an ounce the exact quantity of seeds required for each packet is as interesting as the speed with which they put the little grains into the package, close and seal it at one operation.

One row of girls pastes upon large envelopes the Congressmen's "franks" of which we spoke, and these envelopes, thus addressed, are laid on a moving belt, which carries them before a second row of girls, who place the desired combination of seed in each envelope. These addressed packages, containing five packets each, then continue along the moving belt to a stitching machine, which seals them with wire staples and drops them in the mail bag, ready for use.

The packages for the Gulf States, New Mexico, Arizona and California were mailed as early as November 15, and the successive tiers of States to the north were supplied in December, January and February. From now on, till April 20 packages for the Congressmen from New England, the Northern Central and the North Pacific States will be mailed in abundant time for the spring planting.

All Tested in Laboratory.

Formerly this annual distribution amounted to an indiscriminate scattering of seeds, purchased without regard to their truthness to name or their germinating power. They were merely seeds, purchased from the lowest bidder and distributed under the names with which dealers labeled them. But for several years past samples of all of the seeds entering the general distribution must first undergo germination tests in the seed-testing laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry. After having been planted a few days, the sample seeds are here dug up, and their sprouts are counted, as in the accompanying picture. Unless a certain percentage have sprouted, the entire lot of seeds from which the sample has been taken is refused. And here in the testing laboratory they are now experimenting with new methods of mechanically cleaning and making absolutely pure all seeds sent out through Congressmen. One of the accompanying photographs shows a sample of imported "red clover" seed, greatly enlarged. If this seed were pure, all of the grains would look alike, which they did, in fact, to the naked eye. But the magnifying glass shows the vast number of varieties which the unsuspecting farmer would get with a package of this. In fact, the official test showed that in one pound of the "red clover" seed in this picture there were 91,422 seeds of forty-eight different kinds of weeds. Indeed, the Bureau of Plant Industry goes so far as to send to seed farms, where the product for the congressional distribution is grown, argus-eyed inspectors, who see that everything is done as it should be.

WASH THAT ITCH AWAY

It is said there are certain springs in Europe that give relief and cure to Eczema and other skin diseases. If you knew that by washing in these waters you could be relieved from that awful itch, wouldn't you make every effort to take a trip to Europe at once? Would you not be willing to spend your last cent to find the cure?

But you need not leave home for these distant springs. Relief is right here in your own home town!

A simple wash of Oil of Wintergreen, Thymol and other ingredients as compounded only in D. D. Prescription will bring instant relief to that terrible burning itch and leave the skin as smooth and healthy as that of a child.

Best possible wash for pimples and all skin impurities.

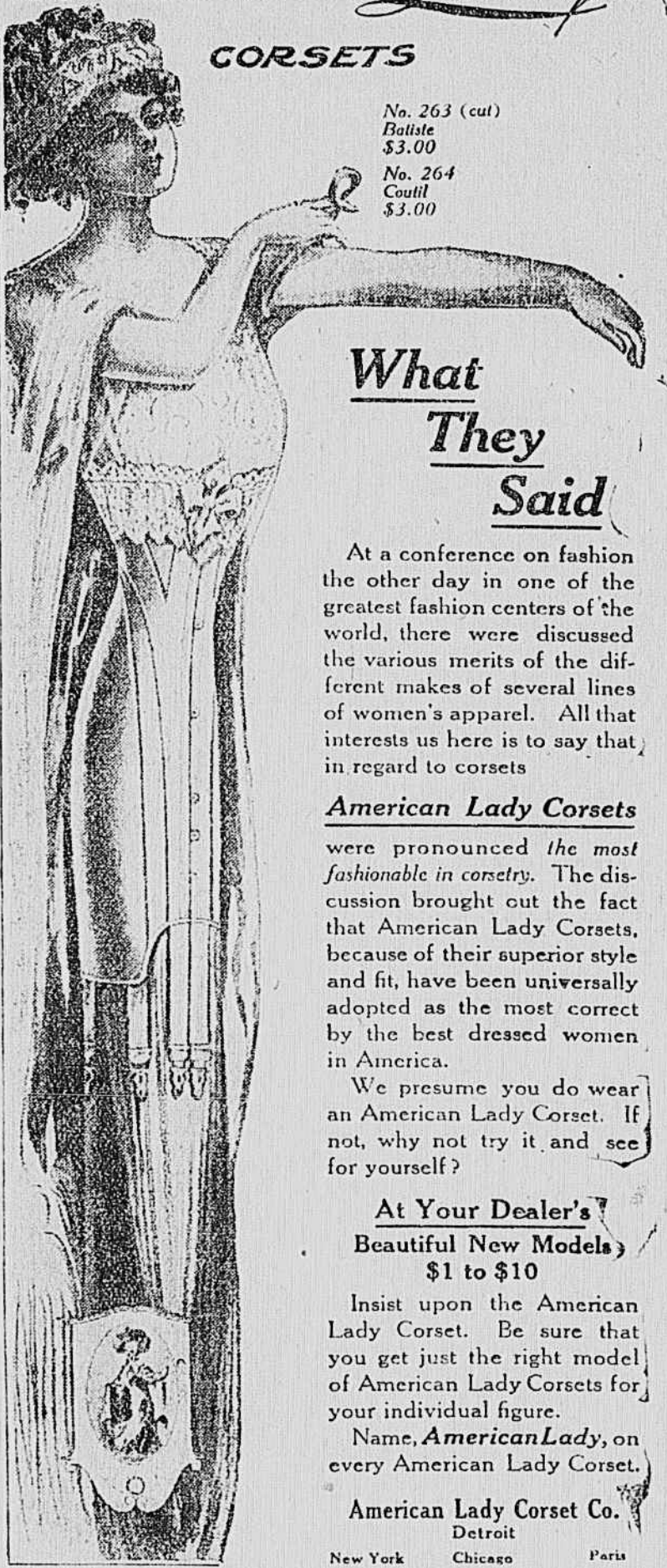
If you have not already tried it, get at least a 25-cent bottle to-day. We assure you of instant relief.

Childrey Drug Co., Owens & Minor Drug Co., Washington & Early, South Richmond.

## American Lady

CORSETS

No. 263 (cut)  
Balise  
\$3.00  
No. 264  
Coutil  
\$3.00



### What They Said

At a conference on fashion the other day in one of the greatest fashion centers of the world, there were discussed the various merits of the different makes of several lines of women's apparel. All that interests us here is to say that in regard to corsets

American Lady Corsets

were pronounced the most fashionable in corsetry. The discussion brought out the fact that American Lady Corsets, because of their superior style and fit, have been universally adopted as the most correct by the best dressed women in America.

We presume you do wear an American Lady Corset. If not, why not try it, and see for yourself?

At Your Dealer's  
Beautiful New Models  
\$1 to \$10

Insist upon the American Lady Corset. Be sure that you get just the right model of American Lady Corsets for your individual figure.

Name, American Lady, on every American Lady Corset.

American Lady Corset Co.

Detroit  
New York Chicago Paris

Other inspectors watch the plant where the seeds are packed.

What Good Does It Do?

"Now, what good does your annual prize package do?" I asked Uncle Sam. "In the first place, it supplies poor people throughout the country with high-class seeds," was the reply. "It also raises the standard of seed sent out by seedmen, whose output comes in competition with those sent out through the Congressmen. And, besides, the farmers are being educated to demand better seeds. The cotton seed distribution enables growers to secure stock seed of varieties which will enable them to grow a profitable crop on land infested with wilt and the boll weevil. And the result of the grass seed distribution is better lawns throughout the country. Then there are the boxes of bulbs, which go out with directions for culture. They educate the people in the growing of flowers from bulbs, and they supply thousands of homes with flowers at a season when the common annuals are not in bloom. For many generations Holland has had a monopoly in growing these Dutch bulbs—those of the hyacinth, narcissus and tulip—and we are importing \$600,000 worth of them a year. But we are now demonstrating that they can be grown on a commercial scale in this country."

New Things to Eat.

"Are you now introducing from abroad seeds of many new things to eat?" "During the past year nearly 3,000 separate lots of seeds and plants were introduced. This material included hardy alfalfas and legumes from Siberia, sorghum and other forage crops, fruit trees, shrubs, vines and plants from China and other foreign countries. These imported seeds and plants are tested thoroughly before they are put into the hands of the growers. In California, Florida, Texas, Iowa and Virginia, and those that are deemed of value are propagated for distribution.

"The visitor walking down the rows of these nurseries now finds strange red fruits from the upper Yangtze Valley, China's carob fodder trees, from the hillsides of Spain; hardy bamboos, from Japan; chick peas, from Mexico; pistache trees, from Mount Ethna; remarkable burr clovers, from North Africa; and evergreen oaks, from Hongkong—all thriving and showing promise of value for some portion of the United States.

"But these foreign introductions will not enter now into the congressional distribution. After our gardens have tested and multiplied their stock it will be distributed among a carefully selected list of individual planters, who sign contracts to grow these things under the directions of government experts. Thus we are now testing the strange Indian mango, the alligator pear, new varieties of dates and of banana. One farmer in Florida is now co-operating with the bureau in the growing of twenty acres of bamboo."

How Congressmen Get Names. To get names of constituents really deserving of the free seeds and plants, congressmen make a very systematic canvass of their districts. Others forward their allotments mainly to granges and other farmers' organizations. Still others use the poll tax or registration lists of voters of both parties, while some obtain from the county committees of their party carefully selected lists of the voters of their own faith. Many Congressmen, whose districts lie entirely within the cities, are now turning over their quotas of vegetable seeds to the school gardens. In fact, many are commencing to furnish considerable proportions of their quotas to the rural school gardens. But, of course, there are still those Congressmen who

either sell their quotas outright or turn them over in bulk to the political henchmen.

Now and then Washington hears rumors of the favored partisan, who annually gets hundreds of packets of seeds especially esteemed as bird food or chicken food. And there blew in upon the March winds the other day the tale of a Congressman's particular henchman, who last year received several thousand packets, which, through error, had all contained one and the same variety of forage crop seed. This same variety of dates and of banana. One farmer in Florida is now co-operating with the bureau in the growing of twenty acres of bamboo."

"Duplicate last year's order of that there breakfast food—two or three hundred gross of packages. It cured my dyspepsia and agrees with the old woman." (Copyright, 1911, by John Elfreth Watkins.)

## MAY MANTON'S PATTERNS

READ THIS, PLEASE.

Why is the "May Manton" the most popular pattern?

Because it is the most reliable, the most economical, and we think the public believe it to be at all times the most thoroughly up-to-date.

Why is it the most reliable and the most economical?

Because it is, in every case, cut from an accurately graded model. Because it makes no pretense at a seam-allowance, which is an absurdity. Because it does not obliterate the true basting line, as is always, and unavoidably, the case with a pattern, cut for the million, on which a pretended seam-allowance is made; and because, therefore, it does not require the exercise of expert ingenuity and necessitate the waste of material in the effort to put the garment together.

Why is a seam-allowance on a pattern an absurdity?

A correct seam-allowance cannot be reckoned for a pattern when the texture of the goods to be cut is not known. One lady may purchase a pattern for close-woven material, requiring a very narrow seam; another may purchase the same pattern for goods of flimsy texture, that needs a very wide seam-allowance. It is absurd to suppose that the same pattern will do for both. It is not likely to suit either, and the dressmaker must labor to correct the mistakes caused by the pattern, and thank herself, not the pattern, if she succeeds.

If you use the May Manton Patterns you avoid all trouble and always secure a good fit, without waste of material.

### NOTICE OF REMOVAL

The May Manton Patterns, which for the last seven or eight years have been so nicely and successfully handled in Richmond by Miller & Rhoads, are now to be had at the May Manton Pattern Co.'s own office in the

**BAYLOR-YARBOROUGH CO.'S BUILDING**

207 East Broad Street,

Richmond, Va.

(Patterns retailed in store in special department on Ground Floor.)

In order to meet the enormous and constantly increasing demand for the most popular pattern in America, the May Manton Pattern Co. will always keep on hand in their Richmond office a larger and more complete stock than can be found, of any other make, in any store in the State of Virginia.

May Manton's Quarterly Book of Fashions. This book contains over 900 beautiful illustrations of this season's styles, and should be in every family.

Price 10c, or 5c when purchased with a pattern.

FASHION SHEETS FREE.

PLEASE READ THIS.

How can the BEST patterns be sold for 10 cents when 15 cents is charged for all others?

The price at which a pattern can be profitably sold is determined by the QUANTITY sold. The cost of tissue paper, the cost of cutting and folding, etc., is practically the same in the production of all patterns, from the poorest to the best. The cost of the models from which they are cut should be about the same.

Now, the pro rata cost of each model has to be added to the cost of the finished pattern; therefore, the larger the number of patterns sold the smaller is the tax on each of the models. Thus, where only, say 10,000, of a pattern are sold, the pro rata model tax is ten times greater than where 100,000 are sold.

May Manton Patterns sell in sufficient quantities to render it profitable to price them all at 10 cents each. Other pattern manufacturers say they cannot afford to sell theirs for less than 15 cents. Either they do not sell a sufficient number or they tax the public too much.

Be that as it may, the May Manton Pattern Co., for the reasons stated above, can, and does, and will continue to sell the BEST pattern on the market at the uniform price—

10c EACH.

They believe that it is only just and right that the discriminating public who so liberally patronize them should share all the advantages accruing from their own generous patronage. That is why those who use May Manton Patterns get the BEST at one-third less than the price universally charged for others.